



The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

January 2025 Newsletter

Upcoming IRC Meetings and Events:

February 21: Our annual CES report from Dave Arland (*note this is the 3rd Friday*)

February 22: Club POTA operating event *[see announcement in this newsletter]*

March 14: Mike Sercer, WA9FDO, talks about his experiences in Armed Forces Radio.

Highlights from the January Meeting:

The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 7:30 pm by Club President David Spoelstra, N9KT. There were 48 in attendance. David recognized the passing of Bob Begeman, W9KVK, who died at the age of 100 on Christmas Day *[see more information in this newsletter]*. David talked about the successful Holiday pitch-in. The IRC is once again teaming up with the SATERN group for Winter Field Day on January 25, getting together at 2:00 at the EDS Facility *[see more information in this newsletter]*. David announced that he and Jim Rinehart, K9RU will be hosting a one day Technician class and test session on March 15 at the EDS Facility. Watch your email for more information and sign up. K9RU announced that the club's VE team needs more VEs. Contact Jim at k9ru@arrl.net if you're interested in becoming a VE, especially if you hold an Extra class license. David announced that we will start having a table available at in-person meetings for members to offer ham radio related items for sale.

Next David introduced the evening's presenter, Eric Swartz, WA6HHQ of Elecraft. Eric started off with how Elecraft came to be. A "precursor" of Elecraft was the NorCal 40 transceiver designed and built by Wayne Burdick, N6KR in 1994. Elecraft officially

began in 1998 when Wayne and Eric decided to concentrate on high performance, yet portable radios in both fully assembled and kit versions. The first model shipped by Elecraft in 1999 was the K2 in kit form. Eric talked about the various radio models and accessories that have been offered since the K2. They have typically offered an “ultra-portable” version of each model, with a smaller form factor and lower power output, such as the KX2 and KX3 models to accompany their full size and power companions, the K2 and K3. The P3 panadapter display offered K3 users a visual “waterfall” spectral display. They updated the K3 with the K3S model and their current model is the K4 line, a full direct sampling SDR based radio that incorporates a touch-screen panadapter display. Eric also talked about the KPA 500 solid state amplifier that offers direct control via any of the K-line radios. They also offer a full legal-limit KPA 1500 solid state amplifier, as well. Eric demonstrated the K4-0 remote head that is in beta testing, offering direct control of a host K4 via the internet. He said they hope to have the K4-0 available by Hamvention in May. He also talked about the KH1 CW only handheld transceiver. Eric entertained questions and comments from those present and was very accommodating in his talk.

The meeting adjourned around 9:00 pm.

Ham Radio News:

BOB BEGEMAN, W9KVK - SK

Bob Begeman, W9KVK passed away on Christmas Day. Bob was a long-time IRC member, a member of ARRL for over 60 years, and a Volunteer Examiner (VE), participating in around 300 testing sessions. Bob turned 100 on August 18 of last year.

Bob was drafted into the Navy’s Electronic Technician Program in 1943. He worked as an Electronic Technician on the attack transport USS George Clymer (APA 27) which was the flag ship scheduled to be part of the invasion fleet on Japan in November 1945. Luckily for Bob, WWII ended in August of 1945 and he was part of a landing party that disassembled a Japanese cave radio station.

Bob’s full biography, as written by Jim Rinehart, K9RU and David Spoelstra, N9KT, for Bob’s 100th birthday recognition, can be found [here](#). Bob was truly one of “the greatest generation”.

COME JOIN US FOR WINTER FIELD DAY

The Indianapolis Radio Club will be joining other hams from Central Indiana who will be kicking off Winter Field Day at the Salvation Army EDS. One of the highlights of the day will be Bert Williams, KC9TQA's award winning chili. You'll also get the opportunity to make some WFD contacts from the SATERN radio room. The festivities kick off January 25th at 2pm.

Learn more about Winter Field Day at <https://winterfieldday.org/>

INDY RADIO CLUB DUES ARE PAYABLE NOW

Don't forget to pay your Indianapolis Radio Club dues. Individual dues are still only \$20 per year. The easiest way to pay is to go to use the PayPal widget at <https://tinyurl.com/irc-dues-payment>

Be sure to include your callsign with your submission. Remember that you can pay multiple years if you would like. Your dues enable the club to continue activities such as VE testing, new Amateur outreach, and club POTA events.

ONE DAY TECH CLASS AND TESTING COMING UP

Watch your email for details on a one-day Technician class and testing session, presented by David Spoelstra, N9KT and Jim Rinehart, K9RU. The class and testing will be held on Saturday, March 15 at the Salvation Army EDS Facility. David and Jim have had great success with this type of session in the past. So, if you know someone that wants to get into the hobby, let them know.

NEXT CLUB POTA EVENT SCHEDULED

Come join us on Saturday, February 22 for the winter Indianapolis Radio Club Parks on the Air (POTA) event. We will plan to be on the air by noon-ish at Fort Harrison State Park, setting up across from the Visitor's Center. Special thanks to Ellen and Gordon

Brock, KD9RUD and KD9RUE for furnishing their tent to give us some protection from the cold. Also we will have a propane heater available for the tent.

We'll have coffee, water, and donuts on hand with two HF stations on the air. Remember, this is a great opportunity to see what the POTA program is all about and get a chance to get on HF. Don't worry if you're currently not licensed for HF, as we will have control operators present. This is open to everyone, you don't have to be a member of the IRC.

NEW VERSION OF WSJT-X AVAILABLE

If you've been using Release Candidate 7 of WSJT-X for FT modes, you have probably noticed it quit working, as warned. The newest release candidate, rc8, is available for download at <https://wsjt.sourceforge.io/wsjtx.html>

The latest general release, version 2.6.1 can also be found on this page.

GOT A SPARE MILLION BUCKS?

If you are wanting to get a ready-to-go contesting "superstation", the W7RN station and house, including 4 operating stations with full legal limit amplifiers, 7 towers on ten acres of land at a 6500 foot altitude can be yours for \$1.1 M. See all the specs and pictures at <https://www.w7rn.com/w7rn-for-sale/> Be sure to have a towel handy to keep from drooling on your keyboard....

INTERESTING ARTICLE ON HAM RADIO AND DISASTER PREP

An interesting article on ham radio's part in disaster preparedness from a non-ham's perspective can be found [here](#)

RESULTS FROM JANUARY 11th TEST SESSION

7 candidates attended the Indianapolis Radio Club sponsored VE testing on 1/11/2025. 4 new hams earned their first license, and 2 hams earned a license upgrade. Thanks to Dave Jarvis N9KZJ, Dave Rogers KB9YYM, Jim Rinehart K9RU, and Jim Kajder AC9ZL for their help as volunteer examiners!

UPCOMING CENTRAL INDIANA TESTING SESSIONS (check with sponsor before planning to attend)

Greenfield IN 46140-9654
Sponsor: Hancock County ARC
Date: Jan 18 2025
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: David Keiser
(317) 440-8486
Email: kc9urp@hrtc.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Hancock EMA EOC
640 South Franklin St
Greenfield IN 46140-9654
Website: <https://w9atg.org/ve-testing2/>

Noblesville IN 46060-1624
Sponsor: Central Indiana ARA/ HCRACES
Date: Jan 18 2025
Time: 10:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: Joseph March
(317) 224-9433
Email: jmarch54@att.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Sheriff's Training Room
CALL AHEAD
18100 Cumberland Rd
Noblesville IN 46060-1624
Website: <https://www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/908/RACES>

Anderson IN 46016
Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club
Date: Jan 21 2025
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Stephen M. Riley
(765) 425-4627
Email: wa9cwe@arrrl.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Madison County EMA EOC

300 N. Delaware St
GPS LOCATION: 119 N. Jackson St
Anderson IN 46016
Website: <http://www.andersonrepeater.club/>

Gas City IN 46933-1155
Sponsor: GCARC
Date: Jan 22 2025
Time: 5:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: Lynn B. Nickerson
(765) 517-1581
Email: k9nqw1979@gmail.com
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: EMA Building
3921 S Garthwaite Rd
Pre-register only, contact ahead
Gas City IN 46933-1155
Website: <https://www.grantarc.net/>

Lafayette IN 47901-1141
Sponsor: Tippecanoe County VE Team
Date: Jan 25 2025
Time: 9:00 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: Elizabeth M. Flowers
Email: tippecanoeveteam@gmail.com
VEC: LAUREL VEC
Location: The Bindery Artist Studios
Pre-Registration Required
Visit Website to Pre-Register
511 Ferry St
Lafayette IN 47901-1141
Website: <https://www.tcvet.info/>

Bloomington IN 47401-5337
Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc
Date: Feb 01 2025
Time: 11:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: William F. Wootton
(812) 327-5457

Email: KC9ACL@ARRL.NET
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: First United Church - Call or email ahead due to COVID-19
2420 E 3rd St
Register at 11:30am
Testing at 12 NOON
Bloomington IN 47401-5337

Indianapolis IN 46254
Sponsor: Indianapolis Radio Club
Date: Feb 08 2025
Time: 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: James Kajder
(505) 228-3704
Email: testing@indyradioclub.org
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility
4020 Georgetown Rd
Register or Call ahead
Indianapolis IN 46254

Anderson IN 46016
Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club
Date: Feb 18 2025
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Stephen M. Riley
(765) 425-4627
Email: wa9cwe@arrl.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Madison County EMA EOC
300 N. Delaware St
GPS LOCATION: 119 N. Jackson St
Anderson IN 46016
Website: <http://www.andersonrepeater.club/>

Lafayette IN 47901-1141
Sponsor: Tippecanoe County VE Team

Date: Feb 19 2025
Time: 6:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: Elizabeth M. Flowers
Email: tippecanoeveteam@gmail.com
VEC: LAUREL VEC
Location: The Bindery Artist Studios
Pre-Registration Required
Visit Website to Pre-Register
511 Ferry St
Lafayette IN 47901-1141
Website: <https://www.tcvet.info/>

Center Point IN 47840-8381
Sponsor: Clay County Auxcom
Date: Feb 25 2025
Time: 6:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Paul G. Adams
(812) 230-1218
Email: adamspg2631@gmail.com
VEC: LAUREL VEC
Location: Center Point Community Church
208 S Cherry St
Center Point IN 47840-8381

Gas City IN 46933-1155
Sponsor: GCARC
Date: Feb 26 2025
Time: 5:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: Lynn B. Nickerson
(765) 517-1581
Email: k9nqw1979@gmail.com
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: EMA Building
3921 S Garthwaite Rd
Pre-register only, contact ahead
Gas City IN 46933-1155
Website: <https://www.grantarc.net/>

Bloomington IN 47401-5337
Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc
Date: Mar 01 2025
Time: 11:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: William F. Wootton
(812) 327-5457
Email: KC9ACL@ARRL.NET
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: First United Church - Call or email ahead due to COVID-19
2420 E 3rd St
Register at 11:30am
Testing at 12 NOON
Bloomington IN 47401-5337

Greenfield IN 46140-9654
Sponsor: Hancock County ARC
Date: Mar 01 2025
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: David Keiser
(317) 440-8486
Email: kc9urp@hrtc.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Hancock EMA EOC
640 South Franklin St
Greenfield IN 46140-9654
Website: <https://w9atg.org/ve-testing2/>

FEEL FREE TO SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER

If you belong to any other radio groups, please feel free to share our newsletter with them. They can also sign up to be on our mailing list by filling out the form available at http://mail.indyradioclub.org/mailman/listinfo/ircnews_indyradioclub.org.

SEND ME YOUR HAM RADIO NEWS

If anyone has any items for the newsletter, please send them to Ken Bandy at kj9b@arrl.net

Signals from the Past:

From the January, 1965 *Amachewer*:

Excerpt from “WHO ‘DAT CALLIN’ HERE?”:

Regardless of individual operating tastes, there’s one element of ham radio that applies to us all--station identification. With this common denominator, it would seem we all should be exposed to the subject so much we would be perfect at it. But I got a news flash for you, feller--t’ain’t so!

Possibly because station identification is taken so much for granted, a large percentage of hams fail to fulfill FCC requirements with their “ID”. Possibly it’s related to the trait that many of us have of mumbling our own names when we’re introduced to a stranger. We know our names so well we don’t take care to pronounce them right. With station identification, we do it so often we slip into bad habits without realizing it.

Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- Hendricks County Hamfest (ARRL Indiana Section Convention): February 8, at Hendricks Co. Fairgrounds. Go to <https://n9hc.org/hamfest/> for details.
- Dugger Hamfest: February 22 at Dugger Community Building. Contact boscoguns@yahoo.com for more info.
- Wabash Valley Spring Hamfest: March 22 at Clay County 4-H Fairgrounds. Go to https://www.w9uuu.org/hamfest/hamfest_2025.pdf for more info.

2025 Officers:

- President: David Spoelstra, N9KT – president@indyradioclub.org
- Vice Pres.: Jim Brown, WØRLD - vp@indyradioclub.org
- Secretary/Treasurer: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - secretary@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Jim Rinehart, K9RU – board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Dave Miller, K9RTT – board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Kyle Bandy, KC9GLR - board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Kevin Colbert, KD9MNB - board@indyradioclub.org
- W9JP Trustee: Jay Kraus, W9TC - w9jp.trustee@indyradioclub.org

To Pay Dues or Donate to the club, go to
<https://tinyurl.com/irc-dues-payment>

Or Scan this QR Code with your smartphone:

